

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 66.

Please amend, without prejudice, claims 64 and 65 as follows:

1 – 60 (Canceled).

61. (Previously presented) A method of generating a plant having a modified canopy size, comprising:

(a) expressing streptavidin in cells of a young leaf and/or shoot tissue of a plurality of plants, said streptavidin including a signal peptide capable of self secretion, thereby depleting biotin in said cells of said young leaf and/or shoot tissue; and

(b) selecting viable plants of said plurality of plants which exhibit degeneration of said young leaf and/or shoot tissue as compared to similar plants not expressing said streptavidin, thereby obtaining the plant having the modified canopy size.

62. (Previously presented) A method of generating a plant having a seedless fruit, comprising:

(a) expressing streptavidin regulated under the transcriptional control of a root specific promoter in cells of an embryonic tissue of a plurality of plants, said streptavidin including a signal peptide capable of self secretion, thereby depleting biotin in said cells of said embryonic tissue; and

(b) selecting viable plants of said plurality of plants which exhibit degeneration of said embryonic tissue as compared to similar plants not expressing said streptavidin, thereby obtaining the plant having the seedless fruit.

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein said root specific promoter is Tob promoter.

64. (Currently amended) A method of generating a plant having degenerated seeds~~a seedless fruit~~, comprising:

(a) expressing streptavidin regulated under transcriptional control of a seed specific promoter in cells of a seed or seed-precursor ~~n-embryonic~~ tissue of a plurality of plants, said streptavidin including a signal peptide capable of self secretion, thereby depleting biotin in said cells of said seed or seed precursor ~~embryonic~~ tissue; and

(b) selecting viable plants of said plurality of plants which exhibit degeneration of said seed or seed precursor ~~embryonic~~ tissue as compared to similar plants not expressing said streptavidin, thereby obtaining the plant having degenerated seeds ~~the seedless fruit~~.

65. (Currently amended) The method of claim 64, wherein said seed specific promoter is selected from the group consisting of the DLEC promoter, the soybean PHS β , the conglutiny promoter, the maize zein promoter, the AT2S1 promoter, the Arabidopsis ACT11 promoter, the Brassica napus napA promoter, the LEA promoter and the tobacco prolamin promoter. ~~expressing is regulated under the transcriptional control of a tissue-specific promoter.~~

66. (Canceled).